

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of sending a user message through a transmission network, the method comprising the steps of:

~~activating a request to set up a call channel;~~

~~_____ generating, in a mobile terminal, a signaling message as part of an attempt to establish a connection between the mobile terminal and an external device through the transmission network, the signaling message including a data field that initially includes data and a spare field that initially does not include data;~~

~~_____ placing a user message in ~~a~~the spare field of ~~a~~the generated signaling message ~~for setting up the call channel, said the generated signaling message,~~including the user message placed in the spare field that initially does not include data, ~~including~~ a parameter ~~to that~~ indicates the presence of said that the user message has been placed is in the spare field, ~~the user message originating at a mobile terminal;~~~~

~~_____ performing a signaling stage including sending saidtransmitting the signaling message to the external device after placing the user message in he the spare field of the generated message; and~~

~~_____ responsive to transmitting the signaling message, discontinuing the attempt to establish the connection between the mobile terminal and the external device.~~

~~terminating the set up of the call channel once the user message has been communicated without establishing a call, the terminating step being triggered by the communication of the user message.~~

2. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ method according to claim 1, wherein the user message is stored in a dedicated memory of ~~a receiver of the user message~~ the mobile terminal, the method further comprising:

the mobile terminal receiving a command; and
responsive to receiving the command, the mobile terminal reading the user message from the dedicated memory and placing the read user message in the spare field of the signaling message.

3-6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ method according to claim 1, further comprising enciphering the user message ~~wherein the user message is communicated in an enciphered form.~~

8. (Withdrawn) A transceiver device, intended for use in transmitting a user message to a called party and for receiving a reply to the user message from the called party, said device comprising:

a dedicated memory;

one or more of the user message and the reply to the user message stored in the dedicated memory; and

a processor adapted to form a signaling message so as to include the user message in a spare field;

wherein the processor is adapted also to send the signaling message during a call set-up operation of a signaling stage.

9. (Withdrawn) A device according to claim 8, wherein the capacity of the dedicated memory is no more than 35 bytes.

10. (Currently Amended) A method of sending a user message through a transmission network, the method comprising the steps of:

~~activating a request to set up a call channel;~~

generating, in a mobile terminal, a signaling message as part of an attempt to establish a connection between the mobile terminal and an external device through the transmission network, the signaling message including a data field that initially includes data and a spare field that initially does not include data;

placing a user message in a the spare field of a the generated signaling message for setting up the call channel, said the generated signaling message, including the user message has including a parameter to that indicates the presence of said that the user message has been placed is in the spare field, the user message originating at a mobile terminal;

~~performing a signaling stage comprising sending said~~transmitting the signaling message to the external device after placing the user message in the spare field of the generated message; and

~~receiving a reply message from the external device in reply to the transmitted signaling message; and~~

~~responsive to receiving the reply message, discontinuing the attempt to establish the connection between the mobile terminal and the external device.~~

~~terminating the setting up of the call channel once a reply to the user message has been received without establishing a call, the terminating step being triggered by the receipt of the reply to the user message.~~

11. (Currently Amended) A—~~The method according to claim 10, wherein further comprising storing the reply to the user message is stored in a dedicated memory of a receiver of the user message~~the mobile terminal.

12. (Currently Amended) A—~~The method according to claim 11, further comprising:~~

the mobile terminal receiving a command; and

responsive to receiving the command, the mobile terminal reading the reply message from the dedicated memory~~wherein a user is authorized to access the dedicated memory by means of commands;~~

determining a status indicated by the reply message; and

if the status is positive, authorizing a payment to be made.

13-15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 10, ~~wherein the user message is communicated in an enciphered form~~ further comprising enciphering the user message.

17. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein generating the signaling message further comprises generating one of a control message and a message for monitoring a plurality of signaling stages included in the attempt to establish the connection between the mobile terminal and the external device.

18. (New) The method according to claim 10, wherein generating the signaling message further comprises generating one of a control message and a message for monitoring a plurality of signaling stages included in the attempt to establish the connection between the mobile terminal and the external device.

19. (New) The method according to claim 10, wherein the reply message is an acknowledgement message.

20. (New) The method according to claim 12, wherein:

the user message includes a personal identification number (PIN) associated with a smart card,

Applicant: Tisserand et al.
Application No.: 09/913,885

the determining includes determining whether the status indicates that the smart card was authorized,

and the authorizing includes authorizing the payment to be made if the status indicates that the smart card is authorized.

21. (New) The method according to claim 10, wherein the reply message is received in a spare field in a reply signaling message as part of the attempt to establish the connection between the mobile terminal and the external device through the transmission network.